

Celebrating 20 years of  
Irish Dentistry



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**“** What  
were you  
doing 20 years  
ago?

I was working with a major bank providing financial advice to a range of clients. It became clear to me that self-employed members of the medical profession were quite exposed when it came to running their businesses and looking after personal finance, not to mention a lack of state support. Off the back of this, I decided to set up a financial services firm that would focus

on the unique and complex financial needs of those in private practice and/or working for the HSE.

## How have things changed financially for the profession since you started working?

Establishing a practice was always an expensive exercise given the equipment involved. These days, however, it has increased to a new level with extended regulatory obligations, including those relating to infection control.

While patient safety is essential, there is a knock-on financial burden on dentists as they are required to install local decontamination units as part of their surgeries. In particular, young establishing dentists face larger set-up costs and this can be prohibitive. For existing practices, plans to establish LDUs must be in place and this will impact surgery running costs significantly.

## How do you see things changing for the profession in the next few years?

It is great to see that the government has begun to address support for self-employed individuals by including them in the invalidity pension scheme (for those affected by long-term illness). However, as surgery running costs continue to increase, this is a drop in the ocean. Private cover will remain the only option to ensure peace of mind in case of all unforeseen circumstances. 